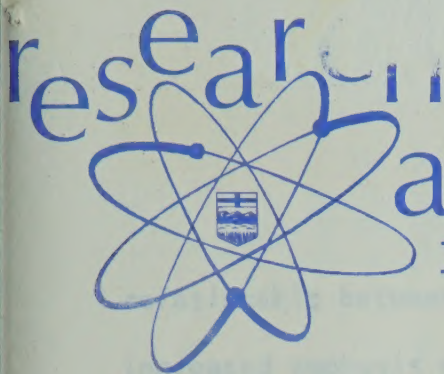


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1/Alberta. 2/Forest Service

3/ RESEARCH NOTE No. 1

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Research and DEVELOPMENT

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5/ Analysis of Firefighting Expenditure

The cost of fighting the three largest forest fires in 1968 was approxi-

mately half a million dollars each. A knowledge of where these large sums of money are being spent is necessary in order to assess the effectiveness of our spending. Analysis of the nine fires which had expenditures in excess of one hundred thousand dollars was made. The result of this analysis gives an indication of the breakdown of the expenditure. The results are shown in Table I and Table II. Table I shows the actual dollar breakdown and Table II shows the percentage breakdown. The total dollar costs have been revised from a previous report (Spring Fires 1968) as the previous figures were not final.

The major firefighting expenditures on seven of the nine fires analyzed were for aircraft, tractor rental and wages. The total provincial firefighting expenditure for 1968 also shows the same trend. The variation occurring in expenditure is due mainly to the method of firefighting and the accessibility of the area. For example, fire DL 3-4 has twice the wage expenditure as tractor rental costs whereas fire DS 3-21 is the reverse. Fire DW 1-9 has a very high truck rental cost. The high cost is linked to the number of water trucks used on the fire. Fire DL 4-1 has a comparatively high aircraft cost and a low tractor rental cost which was probably due to the access problem.

Because of the urgency of firefighting, complete cost control is very difficult. However, the maximizing of the benefits from the funds expended in firefighting is important and must be pursued. By analyzing the cost of firefighting, the fire control officer can gain a better understanding of the

relationship between major expenditures and fire control effectiveness.

Increased emphasis must be placed on high expenditure segments of firefighting in order that more effective use of the expenditure can be implemented.

October 1st, 1969.

Forest Protection Branch,
Alberta Forest Service,
Department of Lands and Forests.

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TABLE I
1968 FIREFIGHTING EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN
(DOLLARS)

	<u>DS2-20</u>	<u>DW4-2</u>	<u>DL3-4</u>	<u>DSL-7</u>	<u>DS3-21</u>	<u>DL4-1</u>	<u>DW6-1</u>	<u>DW1-9</u>	<u>DW2-13</u>	<u>1968 Total</u>
Gasoline, Oil & Repairs	17,354.37	13,009.72	7,913.22	9,669.07	9,257.74	9,257.27	7,904.44	675.75	1,703.72	92,374.76
Freight	34,547.97	35,721.95	5,501.70	20,355.55	11,926.55	1,393.50	6,314.55	6,001.50	5,674.45	200,377.52
Food	46,035.29	34,946.75	43,544.17	17,651.03	22,957.72	23,255.35	13,357.79	24,092.55	5,933.55	355,657.53
Tractor Rental	145,346.69	255,405.59	67,590.95	163,232.13	119,355.06	22,173.54	93,357.50	54,231.79	33,193.39	1,367,740.77
Truck Rental	12,950.70	20,377.54	5,650.93	17,115.50	10,935.35	3,009.40	6,907.50	51,176.00	3,504.50	214,549.55
Other Rental	3,560.30	344.24	51.90	145.75	220.07	100.49	201.11	102.91	655.17	22,691.69
Travel Expenses	5,233.69	2,120.55	112.55	363.25	317.90	323.10	2,291.56	269.40	143.90	41,695.56
Wages	126,050.05	127,454.51	150,661.03	65,057.45	54,491.93	73,440.50	35,623.33	46,053.56	25,254.12	1,311,319.04
Miscellaneous	5,123.95	4,023.46	2,135.72	2,091.20	1,566.23	1,062.54	1,740.66	1,601.04	1,912.46	292,902.55
Bombers	41,235.57	2,956.90	35,225.55	6,145.50	56,953.11	1,330.79	47,075.25	562.55	16,920.90	511,050.24
Helicopters	252,756.49	95,017.79	54,414.64	69,456.73	25,456.74	54,921.56	9,703.36	-	5,571.75	517,592.72
Other Aircraft	6,315.55	376.25	5,913.54	304.55	14,243.41	1,571.00	3,034.13	45.72	3,529.94	176,525.73
Total	697,174.31	594,535.94	415,052.50	374,654.37	330,955.14	222,202.34	227,514.51	215,149.40	110,361.51	5,404,211.62
Total Area Burned	157,063	134,550	93,594	60,260	57,692	67,265	7,797	19,974	6,559	

1968 FIREFIGHTING EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN
(PERCENT)

[illegible]

